

Report on D-8 Task Force Meeting on Energy and Environmental Conservation

(7th Meeting of the D-8 Working Group on Industrial Cooperation)

Date: 08 October 2012
Venue: 'Shimul' Hall, Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Dhaka.

Chair: Dr. Ahmad Ismail Mustafa
Chairman, BCSIR
Key Note Speaker: Dr. Ijaz Hossain
Professor, Dept. of Chemical Engg., BUET
Moderator: Mohammad Reazuddin
Environmental Consultant, Asian Development Bank

A total of 31 participants attended the Task Force Meeting. From Bangladesh 23 participants attended. The representations were from Ministry of Industries, Power Division, Energy and Mineral Resources Division, Ministry of Environment and Forests, PID, Bangladesh Accreditation Board, BSTI, BCIC, Dhaka University, BUET, IDCOL, BEPZA, BPDB, 'Energy and Power' Journal participated the Task Force Meeting. Representatives from Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Nigeria also participated the Meeting.

The Session started at 12.00 pm and continued up to 1:30 pm till lunch break. After lunch, the session continued again up to 16:30 pm.

Dr. Ijaz in his key-note presentation illustrated the present status of greenhouse gas emission in terms of amount and sectoral distribution, future trend. He also highlighted energy demand and energy supply situation, energy efficiency and renewable energy development status and prospect, carbon financing opportunities as well as identification of potential sectors for cooperation among D-8 member countries. Keynote speech also covered environment friendly technologies like Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT), Demand side management (DSM) measures, SHS, Solar Lantern, Solar Mini grid, Solar Irrigations, Biogas technologies and improved cook stove, rice parboiling technology, cogeneration and improved brick kiln technologies.

Apart from the key-note speech, country papers from Turkey and Iran have also been presented. The paper from Turkey is on the Turkish Energy Market, Energy policy and legislative framework and Renewable Energy Sector and was presented by Mr. Emrullah Emen. Representative from Iran, Dr. Vahid Gohari made two presentations; one on Iranian Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Sector and the other on Renewable Energy.

The participants of the Meeting also made their remarks and put forward queries to the Presenters. The queries were mainly on country specific information. The Resource persons responded to the queries accordingly. In general, the audience sees significant potential in cooperation among D-8 member countries. However, it is also urged to identify the most practical and effective approaches as to how aspiration for cooperation can be made to reality. The recommendations of 2011 D-8 Bali Summit have also been discussed at some length. The audience expressed frustration for not having effective follow-up on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations of the Bali Summit.

After threadbare discussion, the participants finally come up unanimously with the following recommendations:

- The D8 member countries should ideally make a dedicated forum desk under its umbrella to expedite solid work in the field of energy and environmental conservation. This will include a database on good practices in all D8 member countries, as well as preparing a list of research institutes, universities, implementation agencies and a pool of individual experts.
- D8 countries having experience and well developed infrastructure in certain areas of energy technologies such as energy efficiency, renewables and energy management may offer to be a focal point and share their expertise with other D8 members. Technical workshops/seminars, training courses may be offered by the focal countries.
- A fund may be created under that forum to help D8 countries to establish salient projects and programmes in the energy field in the member countries. Funding can be from any possible sources (D8 countries or the development partners).
- Cooperation between the research and development institutes of D8 members should be fostered based on available indigenous resources. Areas that could be explored are: geothermal, wind, solar and biomass.
- Three member countries (Turkey, Iran and Pakistan) are trading electricity among each other. This trading can be expanded to include Egypt and Bangladesh. Feasibility of such a proposition need to be studied.
- As given in the point 3 above, the fund may be utilized in establishing various projects in the D8 member countries so as to establish a better understanding of energy technologies and its applications in all of the member countries.

The meeting ended with a vote of Thanks from the Chair.